

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 /084 W

-----125141 281239Z /44

O 281130Z AUG 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2300

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SADF ZAMBIAN OPERATION REPORTED OVER

1. THE AUGUST 28 ENGLISH PRESS REPORTS THAT MAJOR GENERAL JANNIE GELDENHUYS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SADF IN NAMIBIA, ANNOUNCED THAT SA SECURITY FORCES MOPPED UP SWAPO BASES AND SEIZED LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION DURING THEIR "HOT PURSUIT" RESPONSE TO LAST WEEK'S ATTACK ON KATIMA MULILO. THE OPERATION IS NOW REPORTED TO BE OVER AND WAS DESCRIBED BY GELDENHUYS AS "SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED."

2. THE CITIZEN CONTRASTED THIS OPERATION WITH THAT OF

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CASSINGA, REPORTING THAT THIS ONE WAS MAINLY TO WIPE OUT HEAVY ARTILLERY AND ROCKET BASES RATHER THAN TO CORNER THE TERRORISTS. GUERRILLA DEAD ARE REPORTED TO BE IN WIDELY SCATTERED AREAS, MAKING AN ACCURATE COUNT OF CASUALTIES VERY DIFFICULT. THE CITIZEN ALSO STATES THAT

GEN. GELDENHUYS EMPHASIZED THAT NO ZAMBIAN POSITIONS WHICH

HAD NOT FIRED ON THE SADF WERE ATTACHED.

3. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, THE CITIZEN CORRESPONDENT,

JAAP THERON, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA, THE UN SYG, AND THE WESTERN FIVE HAD BEEN CONTINUOUSLY INFORMED OVER THE WEEKS OF THE SWAPO BUILD-UP OPPOSITE KATIMA MULILO. AN UNNAMED SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "AMBIA WAS IN FACT INFORMED BY TELEGRAM BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT EVERY INCIDENT ON THE BORDER THAT WAS INITIATED FROM ZAMBIAN SOIL." THERON CLAIMS THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE ATTACK THROUGH LOCAL ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES AND DEFENSE FORCE UNITS. THE ARTICLE ALSO CALLS IT "INCONCEIVABLE" THAT KAUNDA WOULD NOT HAVE SENT TROOPS TO THE AREA AFTER THE WARNINGS OF A MILITARY BUILDUP THERE BY SWAPO.
EDMONDSON

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